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1

1 Natural Resources and Federal Facilities.

1

2 [We've completed a preliminary review of the Draft
3 EIS and find the document to be deficient in a number of ways,
4 a number of key areas.

5 Because of these inadequacies, we call upon the
6 Department to prepare supplemental information and supplemental
7 draft of the EIS as a requirement of CFR 1502.9 so that Nye
8 County, other agencies and the public can have an opportunity
9 to review and comment on how the Department addresses the
10 deficiencies and inadequacies and comments on the
11 Draft EIS.]

12 All too often Nye County with its many federal
13 neighbors has submitted formal comments to federal agencies,
14 only to see those comments disregarded or unused or minimized
15 in the preparation of NEPA-type documents.

1 cont'd.

16 [Given the significance of this proposed action,
17 the single most dangerous material on the earth to be
18 transported to Nye County given the significance of this and is
19 the serious deficiencies in this Draft EIS, the Department of
20 Energy would be remiss and would be considered not acting in
21 good faith if it did not prepare a supplemental draft for
22 public review and comment.]

2

23 [The Draft EIS presents an assessment of human
24 health and safety that purports to meaning -- meaningfully
25 portray the risks associated with the repository.

2 cont.

1 Unfortunately the assessment is based upon
2 approaches that are fraught with uncertainty and flanked by
3 lack of data. Further the results have been severely
4 criticized by expert panels associated or assembled
5 specifically to evaluate the validity and results of the models
6 used in the protection.]

3

7 [Nye County because of the -- its location,
8 characteristics and overwhelming federal presence within the
9 county has been disproportionately impacted by past, present
10 and continuing federal action.

11 Nye County must receive equitable offsets,
12 mitigation and compensation from the US to mitigate
13 cumulative -- cumulative impacts of these past and present and
14 planned future actions in combination with this proposed
15 repository.]

16 The secretary herself, the prior secretary said
17 that it was a policy of the DOE to comply fully with the letter
18 and the spirit of NEPA, which suggests to you that the DOE has
19 not done this.

4

20 [The Department's approach towards the evaluation
21 of impacts is -- is lacking for -- initially we asked for
22 cooperating agency status and that was denied as was this
23 claim.

24 That is not fulfilling the spirit and letter of
25 NEPA, and we have been given cooperating agency status in

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1 numerous other federal NEPA-type actions and we have proven
2 ourselves to be helpful, cooperating and instructive working
3 partners.

5 4 [The Department would be holding public meetings
5 all across the country and are holding two in Nye County. This
6 is the very first meeting of this nature five weeks after this
7 document was released.

8 It's 1,600 pages of core reading, 50,000 pages or
9 so, 40,000, 30,000 pages of supplemental. This document will
10 be hard to read and analyze and comment upon by the average
11 citizen in Nye County within the six months period of time.

12 We're doing all we can to help our citizens
13 understand this document and we call upon the Department to
14 hold additional meetings in Nye County, informal or formal as
15 you see fit, but to take comments on the record from folks that
16 will gradually become accustomed to this document and
17 understand its comments.

18 We especially call for the Department to hold
19 additional public meetings in northern Nye County.

20 Remember, this county is a large county. The
21 direct physical environmental impact will be felt in this area,
22 in this valley where you are right now.

23 These 1,500 people that live here will be the
24 ones impacted, but the impacts of this project on the county
25 will be felt by the county as a whole, and we urge you to have

1 meetings throughout the whole of Nye County, a -- a land area
2 that is larger than four or five eastern states put together.

3 We applaud you for being here today and urge you
4 to come back.

6 5 [We suggest that the total radioactivity of 14
6 billion curies in Nye County -- that is the burden that has
7 been imposed upon Nye County as best we can tell from best
8 available DOE information -- will continue to be a threat to
9 the contamination of the environment and the water resources of
10 this county and to the well-being and health and safety and the
11 quality of life of this county well into the future, in
12 perpetuity, forever.]

7 13 [Once this material arrives, we will have it here
14 forever. We suggest that this document does not adequately
15 address the issue of cumulative impacts that this county, Nye
16 County has had to bear from a number of federal agencies; not
17 just a nuclear community, but we have huge presence with
18 federal land management agencies, national parks, National Fish
19 and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs and other federal
20 agencies, all of them wanting to come to Nye County and manage
21 the resources and none of them talking to each other.

22 The United States must deal with this issue in a
23 fair and equitable way and must deal effectively with the
24 actual as well as the perceived risks.]

25 We are concerned that we will have to bear the

1 ultimate reception and storage and disposal of this material
2 right up the -- right up the way here for a long period of
3 time.

4 We are also mindful of the national
5 transportation program and we urge those other jurisdictions
6 out there that have to deal with this to deal fairly, to deal
7 firmly with the DOE and put -- put their issues on the table
8 and urge the national government, Congress ultimately -- this
9 is a Congressional problem, this is a Congressional problem.

10 In other words, Congress has to solve this
11 problem, and we'll assume that Congress has -- in its infinite
12 wisdom has the ability, the talent and the will and the
11... 13 resources to make sure that this project, this problem, [this
14 natural problem is solved in a way that does not unduly and
15 unfairly burden a small in population -- not in land mass, but
16 a small, poor, tax base poor rural county in Nevada who will
17 forever be left with this -- the stigma of this -- of this
18 program.

19 The issue of the proposed land withdrawal that
20 was mentioned by the State of Nevada representative is truly
21 something to think about.

22 When that land is permanently withdrawn and
23 that -- part of Yucca Mountain will be in fact within the town
24 boundaries of the town of Amargosa Valley.

25 What other town in the United States would be

11 cont. 1 burdened with having a high-level nuclear waste repository
2 within its boundaries?

3 MR. BROWN: If you can wrap things up.

4 MR. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir.

8 5 [The Draft EIS does not identify in precision and
6 with certainty many, many issues that are of concern to Nye
7 County. The transportation corridors, the -- the mitigation
8 efforts.]

9 9 [We understand from this document that there will
10 be releases from Yucca Mountain. It is planned that there will
11 be releases of radionuclide material and this material will
12 travel southward underneath this building and onward.

13 The document is deficient in identification any
14 mitigations for those issues.]

8 cont'd. 15 [How can we expect to go forward? How can the
16 nation expect this valley and these folks and these residents
17 here in this valley, 1,500 people who have chosen to live here
18 because they like to be here, how can this country expect them
19 to bear this burden and to go forward in future generations and
20 prosper and be happy in this valley with -- with the vague,
21 imprecise and inadequate information that's contained in this
22 document?]

23 Nye County with others will be carefully
24 examining this document as the months go by. We have about
25 four and a half more months to look at this document and we

1 intend to prepare a detailed technical information and submit
2 those possibly at the last possible moment at the end of the
3 six-month period.

4 We appreciate the opportunity to be here, we
5 welcome you here. We urge to listen carefully to our citizens
6 and we urge you to respond to them with a little more care
7 than -- than -- than you would people who are not so directly
8 impacted by this -- this project.

10 10 [Please do not lump our comments generically.
11 Address them specifically.] These are the folks -- these are
12 the folks that will have to live with this issue forever. Long
13 after the rest of the nation has solved their problem, we will
14 be here.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. DIXON: Thank you very much.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

17 Our next presenter is Tom Bugo.